WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tablet personal computer system and software facilitating performing a variety of design, supervisory and/or data management tasks associated with industrial processes including:

a human-machine interface, including a touch-sensitive display region, integrated into a tablet personal computer;

a wireless communication resource; and

a set of one or more application programs relating to supervisory control of industrial processes, wherein the application programs interact with a user via a set of tablet PC interface services associated with the human-machine interface.

2. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the human-machine interface includes an electronic pen user interface.

3. The tablet personal computer of claim 2 further comprising handwriting recognition software.

4. The tablet personal computer system of claim 2 further comprising a handwriting input recognition panel.

5. The tablet personal computer system of claim 2 further comprising an annotation functionality enabling capture and annotation, using the electronic pen user interface, of a view displayed on the tablet personal computer.

6. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein an application program supports collaborative design functionality that enables users to review, edit and annotate a proposed design for industrial process control.

7. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of applications includes a production management application program supporting access to a set of databases.

8. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application verification software for confirming proper design logic by setting values and observing statuses of controlled equipment.

9. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software enabling data entry for controlling a plant floor device.

10. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 further comprising an integrated camera, and wherein the set of application programs includes application software supporting capturing an image and further annotating the captured image.

11. The tablet personal computer system of claim 10 wherein the camera is a still image camera.

12. The tablet personal computer system of claim 10 wherein the camera is a video camera.

13. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software for receiving data input for entry into a database.

14. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software facilitating offline data analysis.

15. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software facilitating online data analysis.

16. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software incorporating a user interface for selectively capturing and annotating real time information.

17. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 wherein the set of application programs includes application software for capturing end of shift snapshots.

18. The tablet personal computer system of claim 1 further including user authentication mechanisms.